Amendments to the Specification:

Please make the following amendments to the specification (material to be inserted in replacement paragraphs or sections is in **bold and underline**, and material to be deleted is in ~~strikeout~~ or (if the deletion is of five or fewer consecutive characters or would be difficult to see) in double brackets [[ ]]).

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 9, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The broad usefulness and secure nature of a key pair are determined by the differential availability of each key. The public key is not maintained as a secret and is shared widely, which allows many to use this portion of the key pair in communications with a key holder. In contrast, the security of the key pair lies with the private key. The private key itself is maintained in secret by the key holder and is not directly shared with others. Instead, proof of possession of the private key may be provided indirectly by encrypting data with the private key. The resulting encrypted data is unreadable until decoded with the corresponding public key of the key pair. Thus, only the key holder of the private key should be capable of producing encrypted data that is decodable with the corresponding public key of the key pair. Similarly, only the keyholder of the private key should be able to decrypt data that has been encrypted with the corresponding public key.

Page 2 -   AMENDMENT
             Serial No. 09/905,415
             HP Docket No. 10010635-1
             KH Docket No. HPCB 326